

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1065.

WILLIAM GREEN, President

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1931

FRANK MORRISON, Secretary

VOL. 21, NO. 26.

Green Declares Wage Rate Maintenance During Business Depression Is Organized Labor's Great Achievement

"Both the American Federation of Labor and the nation have a right to feel proud of one of its greatest achievements of this depression—the success in maintaining wage rates," says William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in an editorial on "Achievement in Wage Maintenance," published in the September 5 issue of the "Federalist."

"Despite the severity of the crisis," Green continues, "wage cuts have been made in only a few instances. The maintenance of wages has been the greatest achievement of the organized labor movement."

"Businesses are fast realizing that high wages are an investment in the stability of the economy. The maintenance of wages is a credit to the men of wages who have stood by their jobs and have not succumbed to the temptation of a few extra dollars to desert their employers."

"Wages are being maintained in a large number of industries," Green continues, "and this is a great achievement. It is the result of the organized labor movement's persistent efforts to maintain wages during the depression."

"Our success in maintaining wage levels is due to the conviction and the courage of the men of wages. It is the result of the organized labor movement's persistent efforts to maintain wages during the depression."

"We hope to make progress by continuing our efforts to maintain wages. We are confident that we will be able to do so. We are confident that we will be able to do so."

The workers' power to create wealth and perform strikes is their only title to a living.

The employers purchase the use of the workers' labor power and realize the form of commodities and services which are sold for a profit.

In the final analysis the workers' ability to obtain decent remuneration rests in the right to refuse to sell their wealth-creating ability unless the employers agree to pay the wage fixed by the workers for its use. The word "strike" is to use the act of workers when they withdraw the use of their labor power from the employers.

Strikes and the right to strike have always been fought by employers and condemned by employer interests.

To prevent the workers from striking effectively, employers mobilize all branches of the government. Policemen are ordered to club strikers. Soldiers are ordered to shoot strikers. Judges issue injunctions depriving strikers of their elemental rights as citizens. In short, it would be difficult to unscramble a strike of the workers which had the support of other policemen, courts, or soldiers.

But there are strikes which do receive government support.

Recently the oil well operators in Oklahoma and Texas were confronted with an overproduction of oil. The big oil purchasing companies took advantage of the situation and reduced prices to such a point that oil well operators were being driven out of business.

Some of the operators saw the only way to secure a reasonable price was to restrict the output. Many of the operators agreed to do this. Other operators refused. The oil companies sided with the refusing operators and kept knocking prices down more and more. Strikers were struck by refusing to pump oil. But enough other operators refused to pump oil to prevent the price from falling.

The operators refused to pump oil. The operators refused to pump oil. The operators refused to pump oil.

Roosevelt Asks \$20,000,000 Work Fund for Jobs and 5-Day Week

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 5.—A five-day week on State and municipal public works, a \$20,000,000 unemployment relief fund for next winter raised by a 50 per cent additional tax on personal income, and municipal authority to issue unemployment relief bonds, were the outstanding features of Governor Roosevelt's jobless relief recommendations in a special message to the New York State Legislature.

Governor Roosevelt's program would provide:

1. A relief administration of three members with an appropriation of \$20,000,000 to be expended wherever possible on State public works. The balance to be apportioned between the counties and cities to be expended on work of local interest.

2. An additional personal income tax of 50 per cent to provide the \$20,000,000. One full cent would increase the tax on this year's income; an alternative measure would make it retroactive and applicable to the year 1929 on the basis of return actually filed.

3. Authority for cities and counties to issue five-day bonds for relief of unemployed workmen.

4. Authority for cities in all contracts for State or municipal public works, except those for the construction of a highway, to employ unemployed workmen.

5. Payment of \$45,000 to veterans for each unemployed workman.

which until the business depression set in had failed to apply for the State's bounty.

Governor Roosevelt's plan would be restricted to men and women who have been residents of the State for at least two years immediately preceding the date when the relief legislation becomes effective.

It is intended to open up as much money as possible to employ persons who are unable to work for that amount and to distribute the work to counties and cities which have the most unemployed.

The official budgeting the Governor's recommendations provides that the State will be able to pay the money to be used for the work. The money is to be paid to the counties and cities which have the most unemployed.

Where this cannot be done the local authorities of funds appropriated are authorized to purchase bonds and to issue them for the purpose of obtaining money for the work. The money is to be paid to the counties and cities which have the most unemployed.

"Under no circumstances shall any individual be employed for the purpose of a day or in any other form by the local welfare office or any unemployed workman's family."

JOB-CREATING BODY SET UP BY GIFFORD

Washington, Sept. 5.—A committee of 18 business leaders, labor officials and economists, headed by Harry A. Gifford, a Chicago banker, has been named by Walter S. Gifford, director of the Federal Reserve Bank, to study the employment problem. The committee is to be set up by the Federal Reserve Bank, and its members are to be chosen from among the business and labor leaders.

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DESPERATE CONDITIONS OF TEXTILE WORKERS

Desperate conditions attributable to wage reductions among Southern textile workers are described in the September 5 issue of the "Federalist."

The article says that in the Southern States the textile industry is in a desperate condition. The workers are being paid less than they were a year ago, and the conditions of work are becoming more and more desperate.

OPERATORS OPPOSE COAL PARLEY PLAN

Washington, Sept. 5.—The bituminous coal operators refused to participate in a conference on conditions in the industry, which the United Mine Workers of America requested Hoover to convene.

The operators refused to participate in the conference, which was held in Washington, D. C., on September 4.

103,000 Children Hired in Place Of Adults by Low-Wage Employers

Washington, Sept. 5.—During 1930 employers throughout the United States employed 103,000 children in place of adults, according to a report by the United States Children's Bureau.

The report says that the number of children employed in 1930 was 103,000, compared with 100,000 in 1929. The number of children employed in 1930 was 103,000, compared with 100,000 in 1929.

Keep Children in School A. F. of L. Head Urges

Washington, Sept. 5.—The President's Organization on Unemployment Relief has urged that children be kept in school and out of the factories and mines.

The organization says that the children who are working in the factories and mines are being paid less than they are worth, and that they are being kept out of school.

\$20,000 JOBBERS AID VOTED BY N. Y. CITY

New York, Sept. 5.—The Board of Economic Opportunity today voted to set up a fund of \$20,000 to be used for the relief of the unemployed in New York City.

The board voted to set up the fund, which is to be used for the relief of the unemployed in New York City.

P. O. DEPT. STRIKES WAGE CUT SHEME

Washington, Sept. 5.—The Post Office Department today announced that it had decided to cut the wages of its employees.

The department says that it has decided to cut the wages of its employees because of the depression.

"EFFICIENCY" MOTION STUDY FOR CLERKS

Washington, Sept. 5.—Secretary Lamont today announced that he had decided to study the efficiency of the clerks in the Treasury Department.

Secretary Lamont says that he has decided to study the efficiency of the clerks in the Treasury Department because of the depression.

MacDonald and Thomas Separated From British Labor Movement

London, Eng., Sept. 5.—The strict division of the British labor movement today resulted in the separation of James H. MacDonald and John D. Thomas from the British labor movement.

The separation was the result of a vote by the British labor movement to remove MacDonald and Thomas from the movement.

INDUSTRIAL CONGRESS PROPOSED BY WOLL

Silver Bay, N. Y., Sept. 5.—Economic planning by an industrial congress was recommended as a possible solution for the industrial depression by Matthew Woll, third vice president of the American Federation of Labor.

Matthew Woll says that an industrial congress would be a way to solve the industrial depression.

FEDERAL OPERATION OF MUSCLE SHOALS

Washington, Sept. 5.—The commission appointed by President Hoover to study the operation of the Muscle Shoals hydroelectric plant today reported that the plant should be operated by the Federal Government.

The commission says that the plant should be operated by the Federal Government because of the depression.

British Labor Says New Regime Protects Rich at Expense of Poor

London, Eng., Sept. 5.—British capitalists today said that the new regime in the British labor movement was designed to protect the rich at the expense of the poor.

The capitalists say that the new regime is designed to protect the rich at the expense of the poor.

WORTHY EMPLOYERS FAVORED

Washington, Sept. 5.—The Federal Reserve Bank today announced that it had decided to favor worthy employers.

The bank says that it has decided to favor worthy employers because of the depression.

GREEN SAYS FORBES' WAGE-CUT CHARGE IS FALSE; RENEWS A. F. OF L. PLEDGE TO RESIST PAY SLASHES

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, today declared that the charge that he had agreed to a wage-cut charge was false.

Green says that he has renewed the A. F. of L. pledge to resist pay slashes.

SHALL BUREAUCRATS MANAGE INDUSTRY FOR OWNERS OR CONSUMERS, HOLCOMBE ASKS

Williamstown, Mass., Sept. 5.—From the platform of the National Industrial Conference today, Charles H. Holcombe asked whether the industry should be managed by the owners or by the consumers.

Holcombe says that the industry should be managed by the consumers.

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